

What is worse, these two agreements appear to be just the beginning of the NAFTA legacy. Next we are told there is going to be a so-called Central America Free Trade Agreement, or CAFTA, that is currently being negotiated by the United States trade representatives. CAFTA has the potential to create a free trade zone in the Western Hemisphere that would flood our borders with cheap imports, and our only export, Madam Speaker, would be our good-paying jobs.

Madam Speaker, it is time we took a stand. It is time we put America's workers first.

Madam Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to just simply look at the record. Our country has taken the wrong path. We cannot afford to go down this dangerous road any further. I urge my colleagues to oppose the Chile Free Trade Agreement Implementation Act and the Singapore Free Trade Agreement Implementation Act. It is time we got our country back on track.

Madam Speaker, I represent 12 counties that stretch along the eastern and southern portion of Ohio. In one of my counties, Mahoning county, the unemployment rate this very day is 11.4 percent. In the City of Youngstown, the unemployment rate is 18.2 percent. I have people who have worked in steel mills and are now jobless. We have steel mills that are under threat. The china and pottery industry along the Ohio River is under threat. The titanium industry is under threat.

Our country is under threat, and I would urge the President and this Congress, both Democrats and Republicans, to recognize reality, to turn from our foolish ways and to return to the attitude that I believe our forefathers had before us, who believed that our first obligation as representatives in this body is to put this country and our communities and our constituents first.

#### CELEBRATING THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF BOWDON, GEORGIA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. GINGREY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. GINGREY. Madam Speaker, I did not rise to speak on this issue, but I just feel compelled to respond to some of my colleagues on the other side of the aisle who are not directly questioning the honesty and truthfulness of President George W. Bush, but yet are doing it secondarily through these so-called "constituent letters."

I want to remind them that it is inappropriate, indeed, out of order, for a Member of Congress to speak in this House from this well and to suggest that the President is lying, that the President is untruthful, that the President deceived the American public. Whether they are saying that directly or they are suggesting it through these so-called constituent letters, they are

getting very, very close to crossing that line.

I want to remind my colleagues that this president was elected, for more than any other reason, because of his honesty and his integrity. The American people trust President Bush and applaud him for what he is doing, what he has done and what he will continue to do to bring peace to the Middle East.

Madam Speaker, actually I am rising today to celebrate the 105th anniversary of Bowdon, Georgia, a jewel of a city in the 11th Congressional District which I represent.

Bowdon has a proud history that dates back before the official founding of the city. In 1847, Carroll County troops from the Bowdon area, fighting under General Winfield Scott, defeated a large army under Santa Anna at Cerro Gordo, Mexico. The town of Bowdon was originally called Cerro Gordo to commemorate that victory. After Alabama Congressman Franklin Welch Bowdon assisted the town in securing a post office, the citizens honored him by renaming their town Bowdon in 1848.

Several years later, in 1853, about 30 local residents selected the present town site. Lots were sold to the highest bidder, with the most expensive lot going for \$10.50. The city grew quickly, and by 1855 Bowdon had five stores, several shops, a primary school and a high school. At least one of those original houses in Bowdon still stands today.

It was not long before the people of this community chartered Bowdon College in 1856. The college was the fifth chartered in Georgia. The school was a trailblazer in the State, as it was first to educate both men and women. With few resources, but with the commitment of a devoted community, Bowdon College educated thousands of poor but ambitious students until 1936. After the Civil War, Bowdon College was one of five endowed by the State of Georgia to educate wounded and disabled veterans, in 1866 and 1867. The program educated more than 200 veterans.

In the early part of the 20th Century, Bowdon flourished with cotton and lumber sales. Soon there was a demand for rail service, and a rail line was completed in 1910. Governor Hoke Smith and Congressman William Charles Adamson, a native of Bowdon, attended the ceremony to celebrate the completion of the line.

Bowdon expanded its job-base during the Great Depression, when Bowdon College graduate Warren Palmer Sewell opened a clothing plant in 1932. Warren Sewell Clothing was one of the top ten manufacturers of clothing in the country when he died in 1973.

Today, Bowdon remains a proud city in Carroll County. Each August, Bowdon holds its annual Founders Day celebration. This year, the city's 105th anniversary, the celebration will be particularly special.

#### INVESTIGATING REASONS FOR WAR WITH IRAQ

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, I know that this journey that we have taken since the beginning of the year involving the war against Iraq in many instances confuses the American public.

I certainly applaud the American public's willingness to wholeheartedly support the men and women in the United States military. America has always joined together around its brave, strong and diligent men and women of the United States military when they have been put in harm's way and when they are in harm's way because of the principles or the direction of Members of this government.

So this discussion this evening is to separate out the respect and appreciation for their bravery. It is an attempt to calmly state that this Congress needs to do its responsible duty in terms of determining the basis upon which this war was declared and the intelligence that was gathered and the reasons given for going to war against Iraq.

If you read the beginning pages of our Constitution, the Founding Fathers, all of whom had some history in fleeing a despotic government, determined that this would be a perfect Nation, a Nation grounded in democratic principles, a transparent Nation. In the opening lines of the Constitution, it said we are organized to create a more perfect union. They believed that. They believed in transparency and they believed in the honesty of government and the integrity of government.

I believe that this Congress has a responsibility to openly discuss the intelligence gathering that led to the representation that the United States of America was about to be under imminent attack by Saddam Hussein and his troops and that we were in immediate danger.

Many of my colleagues came to the floor of the House during that vigorous debate in the fall of 2002 with great pain, believing that they had to cast a vote for the resolution that was on the floor that allowed the President to go to the United Nations, but if, if, the United Nations did not move, then the President interpreted the resolution to be able to move unilaterally, unilaterally, against Iraq.

In spite of the fact that many of us argued vigorously that an outright declaration of war was required under the Constitution, Article I, Section 8, a vote of this body, members of the majority disagreed with that, and they fought against what I think is the right thinking and forward thinking view of 133 Members of both Houses, who said we must have a constitutional vote on a declaration of war.

Madam Speaker, we had not gone to war, if you will, by the time of the 2003